Deputy President.—The question before the House is that "*the Bill be taken up and passed to-morrow by this House*".

Question put and agreed to.

Bill to amend the Cochin Tenancy Regulation.

Deputy President.—Next item is the Bill standing in the name of Mr. Thomas Manjuran.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I rise to move the introduction of my Bill to amend the Cochin Tenancy Regulation. Before I read the Bill I may say a few words as regards the origin of the Bill and the present situation itself. The first clause of my Bill is as regards the *panayam* affair which has been a standing grievance to the tenants mainly of the Kanayannur Section of the Cochin Taluk and also certain portions of Irinjalakkuda and Talappalli. This grievance was brought to the notice of the Government a few years ago during the Diwanship of Vijayaraghava Chariar, and he was pleased to reply that this would be taken up into consideration as soon as the Council came into existence, and 4 years have passed after the formation of the Legislative Council and yet the Government have never cared to do anything in the matter. In fact till a year ago the attitude of the Government towards the Tenancy question was not the same as it is at present. Till a year ago the policy of the Government was one of non-committal. The permanent Diwan-President of this Council in his speech reported in Volume 2 stated that there was the Council functioning and that the Government would no more care to interfere in the matter. The tenants were assured that the Government will not trouble them or help them any more, although the people thought that the existing law, in certain aspects, was wrong. Now, however, the attitude of the Government radically changed. I do not know the reason for the change in the attitude of the Government, an attitude of partiality towards the Jenmi and, if I may be permitted to say, an attitude of reckless contempt for the will of the public. The permanent Diwan-President of this Council, I regret that he is not here to-day, threatened us a few months ago with the appointment of a Committee on the lines of the Raghavayya Committee to investigate Tenancy matters. This Council, in anticipation of such a move, brought forward an urgent resolution to the effect that, if the Government were going to appoint a committee, it must consist of 15 Members, of which 12 should be non-official Members elected by this Council and 3 nominated Members to be appointed by the Government. That was during S. F. C. Session. After the session the people went their ways and thought that the Government would not

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rush matters and create a panic. But unfortunately when we returned after the Christmas vacation, we found the Government ignoring the resolution passed in this House, proceeding with the appointment of the Committee. That was a very alarming state of affairs because a very important distinction is to be borne in mind between Cochin and Madras. Tenancy Regulation in Cochin affects the whole State of Cochin whereas in Madras it affects only one district, *viz.*, Malabar. There is hardly any Tenancy question at all in other parts of Madras, for, out of a population of40 to 42 millions it will affect only 2 or 3 millions. The Government is at present threatening the people with an extra Legislative Committee to go into the matter. We really wanted to see that things went on amicably. The whole State is agitating over the matter. We submitted to the Maharaja a Memorial signed by 19 Members of this Council that we did not want this existing Tenancy Law to be considered by a Special Committee. It is hardly 14 years of age, this law. We respectfully pointed that this Tenancy Regulation was initiated in this State by veteran statesmen like our ex-Maharaja Sir Rama Varma and his Minister Sir Albion Banerjee who are, on all hands, admitted as among the most able administrators ever produced in our land. These two great administrators, after collecting elaborate information, introduced this law which is barely 14 years old to-day. We in our Memorial submitted that, in case some small modifications were necessary, there was the Government Advocate and Law Officer who could take up the matter. Where is the necessity for a costly committee to stump about the country and collect facts and to create suspicion in the public mind and spend Government money in the bargain? The present idea of the Government according to my information is to appoint a President on Rs. 1,000 or so to go into the matter.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—There is no such idea. The Hon'ble Member has misunderstood the fact.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I am speaking on what was heard. I am not in the counsel of the Government. I can only comment on what was heard in the country.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—You have heard unfounded statements. There is no proposal for such a Committee.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Make it Rs. 750, or even Rs. 250 or even an Honorary President. We do not want a Committee. All the technical mistakes, if any, can be rectified by the Government Law Officer. We passed a resolution in this House for the constitution of a Committee consisting of 12

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non-official Members elected by this Council and 3 nominated Members when the Government threatened us with the appointment of a committee. If the Hon'ble Member for Revenue goes through the speeches made on the occasion, he will see that. Now, I submit, Sir, it is a great pity that the permanent President does not give due respect to propositions passed by this Council. You are bound to have confidence in the Members of this House. I ask, will the Government undertake through its Government Law Officer to introduce at an early date a Bill making the amendments that are required? If the Government can assure that, I shall allow my Bill to lie over.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I do not quite follow the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Since the Hon'ble the Chief Court has, from time to time, been making certain recommendations for a little change here and a little change there, the Government may, if it thinks necessary, get those changes made through an amending Bill introduced in this House by the Government Advocate.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—A Bill is likely to be introduced.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Will it be introduced immediately or is it going to be introduced some 10 years hence?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—There is many a slip between the cup and the lip.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—What I say is that without appointing a costly Committee the controversy can be easily settled by a Government Bill.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Without appointing a Committee by one party or other, suppose the Government is going to appoint an independent Committee.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—There we are at issue.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I have not gone through that file.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—A resolution was passed in the Legislative Council that a Committee should be appointed com posed of the elected Members of the Council if a Committee is to be constituted at all. Now the Government is threatening the Council with the appointment of an extra Legislative Committee for the purpose. What I beg to submit is that we will not allow this resolution to be turned down by the Government. We will fight to the last. Without heeding the words of this Council, if you are going to appoint a Committee, no responsible tenants will ever take part in the same. If anybody does so, he will be turned out of his constituency. Jenmi Members

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are of course available. Has not the Government confidence in the present Law Officer? What is wrong about him? Is it because he will not favour the Jenmies so far as their standpoint is concerned? Do they suspect him that he may not bring a fair Bill? Or do they fear that he will not satisfy the extravagant claims of the Jenmies? What are we to understand from this enigmatical attitude of the Government? Here is a Bill of mine and I ask the Government to hand over the Bill to the Government Law Officer. I have nothing more to say. I shall wait for the Government answer.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I cannot make any definite statement in the matter.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The Government is constrained to oppose the Bill on its merits.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—If the Government will at an early date consider the matter and do the needful, I shall allow my Bill to lie over.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—We had no notice of this offer, and we had no time to consult about this matter. This offer as we understand is this, *viz.*, that a Bill should be prepared by the Government on its own initiative without consulting anybody.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—He can consult all the world. He can consult the Hon'ble the Jenmi Member. Our objection is about this committee.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Suppose the Government Advocate and others call a committee, what is the objection for a Council Committee? I do not wish to have a committee myself. I ask this for information because I had no occasion to take counsel of the Government about this matter, and so I do not wish to commit myself to any undertaking.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—If the Hon'ble Member had no time to consider the matter, I shall allow my Bill to lie over till the next Session. We want fair play. We do not want to ruin the Jenmi or the tenant. Let the Government not be misguided.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Why do you suspect?

Deputy President.—No assurance can be given.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I am not moving the Bill just now, and I shall allow this Bill to lie over since I find the Government side had no time to consider the present offer.

Deputy President.—So you do not move it to-day?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then what about the speech and all that transpired here?

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Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—We shall consider that no facts were given by the Government side.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That cannot be. Every word uttered in this Hall should find a place in the Council Proceedings. There is a rule to that effect.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—We shall consider that as an informal talk.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Not at all. That is my objection. He does not want to move.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Everything that transpired here will find a place in the Proceedings. That is all that is wanted.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I don't want to say anything. I am saying several statements have been made regarding what the Government is doing.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—We talked. We have not made any statement.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have not said that Government have made statements. Several statements have been made by the Hon'ble Member. I have absolutely no objection. If the Government do not know their business and are going to contradict, I will leave.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—We have every right to say that we are not prepared to answer.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If it is not answered, it will be taken that it is not accepted.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Alright, take it.

Deputy President.—Silence please.

The Cochin Cow Protection Bill.

Deputy President.—Next Bill is the one standing in the name of Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar. The Member is absent.

(*Hence the Bill was not taken up.*)

Resolutions on Matters of General Public Interest.

19. *Licenses for tapping sweet toddy.*

Deputy President.—Mr. K. T. Mathew is absent.

(*Hence the following resolution and amendments to it were considered withdrawn:—*

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—"*With a view to encourage jaggery-making industry in the State, this Council recommends that licenses for tapping for sweet toddy be issued without any restriction to all those who apply for them.*"

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*Omit 'issued without any restriction to all those who apply for them' and substitute the word 'abolished' in its place.*

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